

## **CBBAG - OTTAWA VALLEY**

### Minutes

April 10, 2019

**Theme:** Roxanne Lafleur's Art of the Book submission

#### **Chair**

Spike was unable to attend this evening, so Roxanne led the meeting. We had 3 new people attending, from the Library of Parliament. We were reminded that the next book arts challenge is pockets/poche, due June 12. There is an exhibition at the National Gallery, Distinctly Canadian - Golden Dog Press to Lumière Press, on until June 9.

#### **Workshops**

Nancy French will be giving a 2 day marbling workshop, on April 12 and 13. It is sold out. Spike will be offering Bookbinding 1 over two weekends in May, May 17-19 and 24-26 (Friday to Sunday).

#### **Announcements**

Wayzgoose, the regional book arts fair in Grimsby, which has been held for 41 years, will take place on Saturday, April 27. Around 50 people will be exhibiting, including vendors. Several members from here will be going, and have reserved tables.

Wendy mentioned an exhibition opportunity for Ontario CBBAG members, in March 2020. This will be concurrent with the Art of the Book 2018 exhibit, March 5 - April 10, 2020. It was sent out to members today via email.

#### **Show and Tell**

Larry spoke about the book arts lab currently being developed in the library at Carleton University. He has found an iron press and two flatbed printing presses which might go into the lab. As their consultant, he has been looking for presses and other equipment. He then explained the history behind the lab. The Museum of Science and Technology will donate a Gutenberg-type press. The University is talking about two apprenticeships for masters' students. Diane asked if we would have meetings there. That needs to be worked out. Too soon to tell right now.

Holly is working on 3 paintings to raise money, and will create art with her autistic grandson. People are invited to follow her on her journey. To register: <https://www.hollydean.com/project-live-autsy>. Wendy continues to make ink from plants and now has boxes of samples of ink on paper. She showed her accordion book, with pockets, on St Armand paper. [Select Fine Art Materials](#) in Orleans has good materials for sale. Béatrice showed the work she made for last month's ribbon challenge, ribbons on a board. Diane had a leather book, with linked binding, and a long wrap around cord.

Amy had 2 books sewn with the coptic stitch, made with paper obtained in New York. While she was

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there, she went to the Center for Book Arts. Josiane talked about the online course she took with Trinity College on the *Book of Kells*. By paying a fee, she has online access to the *Lindisfarne Gospels* and the *Book of Kells*. Geneviève spoke about the lecture she attended, on the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the *Bomberg Talmud*. The lecture focused on the people who printed the book. Bomberg was a printer in Venice. Our visitors from the Library of Parliament spoke about what they do there. Emily was trained as a fine printer, and commented on the better equipment they possess.

Steve finished his latest miniature book, on dragons, in an edition of 450 copies. Samples were handed out to those present. Susan Ross has created a book of her own photographs, portraits from the cottage. So far, 4 copies out of 18 have been completed. Moab paper has been designed for ink jet printers, and that is what she used with her Epson printer.

## Swap

Bound collections of the signatures are due May 8.

## Program

Roxanne's book, *De mère en mer*, was accepted for the Art of the Book 2018 travelling exhibition. She spoke about her inspiration and how this book came to be. It started in 2010, with early impressions, which were the catalyst. Her mother had completed radiation treatments, and Roxanne saw the plastic mesh mask that had been used for the radiation. She took the mask. Secondly, she spent a week at a friend's house, located on the north shore of the St Lawrence River. Roxanne had photos of the masks and house. The view of the river from the house was constantly changing. Next were early Acadian songs sung by Suzie Leblanc, often about the plight of women.

Books and drawings: In 2011, she went to France and created her first artist's book. By the end of 2011, she had completed 12 drawings of the mask. It was also the year she was introduced to CBBAG. She showed her drawings, explaining that she sat down low to draw the mask, giving a unique perspective. Events leading to the book: 2013 was the passing of her mother. More drawings were created. In 2014, Roxanne felt as though her mother were looking through her eyes at the St Lawrence River. She took a Seaway Cruise that year. The book, *Notes from exile: on being Acadian*, by Clive Doucet, was significant. In 2016, an invitation from ARA Belgica came to CBBAG Members on the theme Reliures océanes. Roxanne felt it too expensive to participate (2 memberships, submission and shipping fees to Europe) and it seemed to her that ARA was more concerned with binding than artists' books. She decided for forgot participation, but the idea of creating the small book was born. The text for the book, which was a homage to her mother, was already done, an idea for another project, which is still in the making.

The words *mère* (mother) and *mer* (sea) are both feminine and sound the same. Two books bound dos-à-dos, were created, and the order of sentences in the second book were in reverse order of the first. Roxanne wanted the book to be never ending, to show the cycle of life, and be feminine. Images in the book included pictures of bodies of water from northern Ontario, near West Nipissing, where Roxanne grew up, of the St. Lawrence River and a few of the drawings of the mask. She is considering producing a small edition and sending a copy to the National Library, thinking it would be nice to say that a copy is in their collection. Books can be submitted to Library and Archives Canada without ISBNs. The book Roxanne showed at the meeting was a prototype of *De mère en mer*. All the parts were shown but not completely assembled to show how it was put together. Everyone was delighted with this book.

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## **Next Meeting**

May 8, Roxanne Lafleur and image transfer  
20 in attendance